

In the Abstract:

Following the claims, please add the abstract as follows:

--Abstract of the Disclosure

A multiprotocol encapsulation (MPE) encapsulator (6) receives or generates a copy or partial copy (10') of service information data (10) and generates associated forward error correction (FEC) data. In addition to transmitting service information data in a conventional way via a first set of channels, the MPE encapsulator transmits the copy 10' and the associated FEC data via a second set of channels.

(Figure 4)--